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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6378

BILL NUMBER: HB 1954

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 4, 2002

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Genetic Testing in Paternity Cases.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Thompson

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
☒ **FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires a court to order genetic testing in a paternity case upon the motion of any party, even if paternity has been admitted.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill may increase the number of genetic tests that would need to be performed by contractors with the state. Payment for the testing would ultimately be the responsibility of the contesting parties.

Background Information: Under current arrangement, the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) approves a series of laboratories to conduct genetic testing to determine paternity. Under IC 31-14-6-4, the state or county is authorized to recover these costs from the biological father. The Title IV-D Child Support Division pays for genetic testing for eligible IV-D cases. The IV-D federal reimbursement for the test cost in the Child Support Program is 90%. The test costs \$195 total for three individuals: the mother and child and the putative father. FSSA reported DNA testing costs for the establishment of paternity to be \$850,743 for FFY 2002. This amount is net of any reimbursements made by men determined by the testing to be a child's father. The state share of this expense was \$85,074.

FSSA reported that if the paternity testing is performed privately, the total cost is approximately \$800.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Family and Social Services Administration.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial Courts.

Information Sources: Bill Steffen, Division of Family and Children; Susan Kilty, Legislative Liaison, Division of Family and Children, 232-4451.

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